



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
**ONE FELON SENTENCED, ANOTHER PLEADS GUILTY
TO ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that one felon was sentenced and another pleaded guilty in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms.

* **Michael I. Runions**, 20, of Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. Chief District Judge Dean Whipple this afternoon to four years and seven months in federal prison without parole for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

On June 24, 2004, **Runions** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Runions** admitted that he was in possession of a Davis Industries 9 mm Derringer on Jan. 28, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Runions** has two 2003 criminal felony convictions for receiving stolen property and tampering.

Runions was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on May 12, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Reginald A. King**, 22, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. Chief District Judge Dean Whipple this afternoon to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **King** admitted that he was in possession of a CZ .40-caliber semi-automatic pistol on Aug. 21, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon

to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **King** has a 2002 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

King was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Sept. 10, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rudolph R. Rhodes, IV. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow